

## QUANTIFYING THE HETEROGENITY OF PUBLICATION CULTURES IN ECONOMIC, BUSINESS, AND FINANCIAL HISTORY

Eline Poelmans

Faculty of Economics and Business,

KU Leuven, campus Brussels

and LICOS Centre for Institutions and Economic Performance

KU Leuven

[eline.poelmans@kuleuven.be](mailto:eline.poelmans@kuleuven.be)

Sandra Rousseau

Faculty of Economics and Business

KU Leuven, campus Brussels

[sandra.rousseau@kuleuven.be](mailto:sandra.rousseau@kuleuven.be)

*Researchers working in the interdisciplinary field of ‘economic, business and financial history’ come from at least two different disciplinary backgrounds, namely history and economics. These two backgrounds may lead to differences in research practices, as there are potentially other demands for tenure and promotion requirements. We performed a survey to assess whether there is heterogeneity in the submission and publication culture (i.e. one multi-faceted culture, or simply multiple cultures) between respondents working in an economics versus a history department. Among other things, we found differences in their motivation for publishing, the type of publications they aim for, and their journal selection strategies. Our results show that the department the respondents work at—irrespective of their disciplinary focus and background—determines most of their research and publication decisions. Hence working successfully in an interdisciplinary field or working in a department different from the main field of research requires researchers to learn the (in)formal rules and practices of an unfamiliar field.*

## Introduction

Within interdisciplinary fields, there can be large differences in research attitudes, focus and practices depending on the different backgrounds of researchers. These differences can lead to differences in communication and publication culture. Taking the concept of ‘organizational culture’ (Jay Barney 1986), we define publication culture as a complex set of values, beliefs, assumptions, and symbols that define the way in which an individual conducts research. In this sense, the publication culture also defines how a researcher interacts and communicates within and outside his/her department. In this essay, we assess the degree of duality in the publication culture within the interdisciplinary field of ‘economic, business and financial history’ (hereafter ‘economic history’).<sup>1</sup> We investigate the impact of the disciplinary focus of researchers’ doctoral dissertation and current affiliation on their preferred publication outlets, their reasons for publishing, and their journal selection strategies. Economic history is a field at the intersection of two different disciplines, namely history and economics. Or as Stephen Broadberry, an economic historian, stated very clearly in 2012 (Geoffrey Jones, et al. 2012, 246-247):

One issue which has generated a lot of controversy over the years is methodology, and whether economic history should be located in Economics or History...“We have need for both [economics and history], ... Many economists perceive the need for economic history after the crisis of 2008 ...And rudely awakened by the intrusion of material reality, some historians are beginning

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<sup>1</sup> Previous bibliometric studies in the field of economic, business and financial history include Gianfranco Di Viao and Jacob Weisdorf (2010) and Di Vaio et al. (2012). Di Viao and Weisdorf (2010) focus on ranking international economic history journals based on citation data for 2007, while Di Vaio et al. (2012) used the same dataset to study the number of citations received by authors who published in economic history journals in 2007.

to recognize the possibility that the cultural turn may have gone a bit too far. These developments surely provide opportunities for economic historians in the disciplines of economics and history... We should embrace economic historians from diverse backgrounds and celebrate that diversity.

These different backgrounds may lead to a wide range of research approaches within this interdisciplinary field, as there are possibly other conditions for obtaining tenure, promotion or funding in history as compared to economics. While interdisciplinary research is clearly valuable given the complexity of real-world problems, several studies warn about the challenges of doing interdisciplinary research (Norman Metzger and Richard Zare, 1999; Diana Rhoten and Andrew Parker, 2004). These challenges can range from the investment needed to develop the specialized skills required for high-quality interdisciplinary research (Rhoten and Parker 2004) to the difficulties that researchers face in obtaining tenure when pursuing an interdisciplinary research path because their success is often measured by discrete disciplinary indicators (Metzger and Zare 1999). Moreover, it has become obvious that researchers cannot necessarily be linked to the previous standard criteria with regard to departments and research focus (i.e. belonging to one specific department, such as a ‘department of economics’, focusing their research on one discipline, such as ‘economics’). Increasingly, researchers work on interdisciplinary topics and even belong to new(er) departments or subgroups that build a bridge between two or more different faculty departments, such as a department of ‘economic history.’ As requirements with regard to tenure and promotion often differ between departments and disciplines, it is important to develop measurement methods to hire and evaluate researchers working in an interdisciplinary field. One example of this is the guidance for both individuals and academic administrators by Stephanie Pfirman et al. (2007) and Pfirman et al. (2011).

In previous research Eline Poelmans and Sandra Rousseau (2015) analyzed the impact of time constraints on the submitting author’s willingness to wait for a publication in a journal with specific

characteristics in the field of economic history. They performed a survey amongst researchers working in the field of economic history and used an economic valuation technique known as stated choice experiments developed by Jordan Louviere and David Hensher (1982) to identify the factors determining the willingness of economic history authors to wait for editorial decisions. The relative importance of different journal and author characteristics in the submission process was then assessed. The results showed that respondents found the standing of a journal to be at least as important as its ISI impact factor. Moreover, Poelmans and Rousseau (2015) found that the effect of department affiliation on submission decisions overruled the effect of respondent characteristics such as age or gender.

In this paper we use data in order to quantify the heterogeneity (or ‘duality’) of the publication culture in economic history. We investigate the impact of discipline (history, economics or other) on respondents’ submission and publication behavior. Based on previous research performed by, among others, Diana Hicks (1999), Vincent Larivière et al. (2006) and Annik Leyman et al. (2011), we expect to find a focus on journal articles rather than books in economic departments and vice versa in history departments. Moreover, the relative importance of scientific indicators such as journal impact factors compared to standing among peers is also likely to be different in both fields. Our analysis confirms these general and rather intuitive results, and also shows more subtle differences stemming from the role of contract type, location, age and gender. While our analysis confirms the role of the department to which a researcher is affiliated in determining publication preferences and strategies, the discipline of the PhD often plays an important role as well. These insights imply that it is inappropriate to use a strategy based on the conventions of a single discipline to evaluate researchers in a multidisciplinary field since it is unlikely that ‘one size fits all.’ A discipline-based assessment strategy can therefore lead to a bias in favor of researchers from a particular research background. Moreover, our results also indicate that researchers who move from one type of department to another will have to invest effort and time in order to adapt to the new publication culture.

In the following section, we provide the survey design and characteristics. In the Results and Discussion section, we present the heterogeneity found between respondents working in an economics and those working in a history department. We focus on differences regarding their submission and publication behavior, the respondents' own estimated probability of acceptance of a paper, their motivation for publishing, the type of publications they aim at, and their journal selection strategies. At the end of this section we also test the impact of other factors besides department that influence publication culture and hence the respondents' choices.

### **Survey Design and Characteristics**

We asked respondents to complete a questionnaire in which we collected information regarding respondents' socio-demographic characteristics and their current submission practices. Besides information with respect to age, gender, nationality, research discipline, and current employment, we also obtained information regarding the number of papers submitted and/or published in the past two years, the preferred research outlets of both the individual respondent and his/her institution, respondents' estimates about the likelihood that a submitted text would be accepted for publication, their motivation for publishing and their journal selection strategies.

The questionnaire was distributed to a sample of researchers in the field of economic history. To ensure that the sample was representative, we used three different sources of possible candidate researchers in order to include researchers with different profiles and publication strategies within the field. First, from the top twenty journals in the field of the 'History of Social Sciences' (ISI subject category 'History of Social Sciences' in the Web of Science –hereafter WoS) we selected those journals that—in our opinion—are aimed at economic-, business- and/or financial history-related topics. From this smaller list in the actual field of economic history, we randomly selected five journals: *The Journal of Economic History*, *Explorations in Economic History*, the *European*

*Review of Economic History, Business History* and *Enterprise & Society*.<sup>2</sup> Further, we assembled a list of all authors who had published in these five journals in 2010 and/or 2011 (Table 1) and who included their email address in the published manuscript or whose email-addresses could be found on the internet. Secondly, we added scholars who were working in the field of economic history, according to NEP-his.<sup>3</sup> Thirdly, we included scholars that attended at least one of six yearly conferences in the field in 2010 and/or 2011.<sup>4</sup> After removing double entrees, we obtained a list of approximately 1,200 distinct email addresses.<sup>5</sup> In total, we received 332 responses of which 224 were fully completed.<sup>6</sup> Thus our

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<sup>2</sup> These are ranked 1, 2, 6, 18, and in the ISI subject category 'History of Social Sciences,' according to their 2011 impact factors.

<sup>3</sup> According to NEP-his, "This list attempts to categories authors by fields. The procedure is to look at all their papers announced in a NEP report. If more than 5 or 25 percent have appeared in a report, authors are considered to be working within that field. Note that a paper may appear in several reports." See: <http://ideas.repec.org/i/ehis.html>.

<sup>4</sup> We selected some large and some small conferences in the field. The participants of the conferences of the Association of Business Historians (ABH), the European Business History Association (EBHA), the European Association for Banking and Financial History (EABH), the Economic and Business History Society (EBHS), the Economic History Association (EHA) and the Economic History Society (EHS) were included in our list.

<sup>5</sup> If possible (if we could link different email addresses to the same person), we counted all different email addresses belonging to the same individual researcher as one 'distinct' email address. 45 addresses of the 1200 distinct email addresses that we sent out were no longer in use.

The survey was executed online and respondents were invited to participate by e-mail (on 22 April 2012). The recording of new respondents ended on 10 June 2012.

<sup>6</sup> We considered a timespan of less than two minutes insufficient to read, let alone to fill in decently, the questionnaire and provide

response rate is 28.7 percent =  $332/(1,200 - 45)$  (or 19.4 percent if only the fully completed questionnaires are considered); this compares favorably with typical response rates for internet surveys, mentioned by Mark Saunders et al. (2011), of only 11 percent.

**Table 1**  
**Sample Selection (Subject Category ‘History of Social Sciences’)**

Journal	2011 impact factor		2010 impact factor	5-year impact factor (2007-2011)
The Journal of Economic History	1	(1.015)	2 (1.042)	1 (1.120)
Explorations in Economic History	2	(0.935)	1 (1.222)	3 (0.898)
European Review of Economic History	6	(0.774)	9 (0.594)	/
Business History	18	(0.345)	13 (0.427)	11 (0.557)
Enterprise & Society	20	(0.312)	18 (0.306)	10 (0.560)

Source: Thomson Reuters’ Social Sciences citation Index (ISI)

### Description of the dataset

In this section, we first present the respondents’ personal- and work-related characteristics. In addition, we investigate the interaction between the type of PhD, the main field of research (discipline), and the department with which the respondent is affiliated.

### General background

The results from the online questionnaire gave us valuable information on the age, gender, country of residence and type of PhD of the respondents. Those aged between 26 and 35 comprised 28 percent of

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acceptable answers. Hence these respondents were removed from the dataset.

respondents, 24 percent were aged between 36 and 45, and 29 percent were aged between 46 and 55.<sup>7</sup> The majority (71 percent) of the respondents were male. Europe (including Russia) (69 percent) and North America (22 percent) were most often reported as the “continent of current affiliation” followed by Asia (including Turkey) (5 percent), Central and South America (4 percent) and Africa and Oceania (less than 1 percent). Most respondents (85 percent) had a PhD<sup>8</sup> and from these respondents, 49 percent had a PhD in economics, 23 percent in economic, business and/or financial history, 21 percent in other fields of history, and 7 percent in other disciplines. Although the survey was completely anonymous, we can, based on the email addresses, get an impression of the geographical and gender distribution of all researchers who were contacted. Some email addresses (15.3 percent) such as gmail-addresses could not be linked to a specific continent and some first names (1.3 percent) could be used for both male and female respondents. Compared to all contacted researchers, more females answered the questionnaire (29 percent in the respondent sample compared to 19 percent in the contacted sample) and relatively more European than North-American researchers completed the survey (69 percent Europeans and 21 percent North-Americans in the respondent sample compared to 56 percent and 32 percent respectively in the contacted sample).

Most respondents (81 percent) were affiliated with a university, whereas 11 percent were affiliated with a research center, 6 percent with a business school and another 4 percent with a museum, library or archive. Researchers could indicate more than one affiliation. The respondents were also asked to describe their current (academic) position. However, as the use of the terms ‘lecturer,’ professor,’ etc. are not universal and a job that is called a ‘professorship’ in one country can be called a ‘lectureship’ in another country, we will not unduly focus on these positions. We only make the simple division between “some kind

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<sup>7</sup> In addition 2 percent was younger than 26, 12 percent was between 55 and 65, and 5 percent was older than 65.

<sup>8</sup> More than one doctoral degree per respondent was possible.



of faculty position” (81 percent, with most respondents (28 percent) referring to themselves as full professor, or another type of faculty position (53 percent), such as assistant or associate professor, lecturer, etc.), “some kind of research position” (18 percent, mainly research assistants, doctoral candidates or postdocs), and with the final 1 percent of respondents falling into the category “other” (including grad students, other researchers and retired professors).

### **Disciplinary background**

With regard to the scientific discipline that formed the majority of their research (namely economic history, economics, history or ‘other’), 54 percent of the respondents indicated that this was situated within the field of economic history. This is not surprising given the sample selection strategy we described above. In addition, 28 percent of the respondents indicated they were working purely in economics, 11 percent were working purely in history, with another 10 percent predominantly working in other (social) sciences.

We were also interested in identifying the specific university department to which the respondents belong and we observed that 66 percent of those affiliated with a university belonged to an economics department, 19 percent to a history department and 5 percent to an economic history department. The remaining 10 percent were from some other department. In most universities, no separate department of economic history exists; ‘economic history’ is often organized as a working group within the economics and/or history departments and the researchers concerned are dispersed throughout various departments. Broadberry has commented on these developments (Jones, et.al. 2012, 247):

... many economic historians have been employed in business schools and in other parts of academia, most obviously including departments of sociology, geography and politics. Furthermore, there are many distinguished historians of technology in science departments. The diverse programme at the recent World Economic History Congress in Stellenbosch [2012] is a reminder of the breadth and depth of the discipline of economic history.

There is a clear correlation between the particular department that respondents work in and the type of PhD that they hold. (Table 2). First, most respondents with a PhD in economics (92 percent) work in an economics department. Note that we use the term ‘economics’ to cover management, business and finance as well. Secondly, for the respondents with a PhD in history the result is less straightforward. ‘Only’ 51 percent of these researchers are actually working in a history department, 26 percent work in an economics department and 6 percent in an economic history department. Of these respondents with a PhD in history, some 17 percent work in a completely different department (such as sociology, political sciences, etc...), compared to only 3 percent of respondents with an economics PhD. Thirdly, the majority (55 percent) of the researchers with an economic history PhD were affiliated with an economics department, followed by a history department (20 percent) and a separate economic history department (14 percent). Hence the likelihood of an economics PhD working at an economics department is much higher than that of a history PhD working in a history department.

**Table 2**  
**The Link between the Type of Phd and the Department of**  
**Affiliation (In Percent of the Total Number of Respondents**  
**With a Specific Type of Phd)**

		Type of PhD				
		History PhD	Econ PhD	Econ Hist PhD*	Other PhD	No PhD
Department of affiliation	History	51	3	20	17	27
	Economics	26	92	55	30	69
	Eco. Hist.	6	2	14	0	0
	Other	17	13	10	52	4
	Total	100	100	100	100	100

\* Economic History = Business, econ. and/or financial history

Besides the type of PhD, the respondents' main field of interest is also correlated with the department in which the researchers work (Table 3). Almost all respondents (95 percent) who stated that their main field of interest was economics are working in an economics department. From those mainly working in history, 65 percent were working in a history department and 20 percent in an economics department. Most researchers working in the interdisciplinary field work in an economics department (61 percent of the total) or a history department (22 percent). Only 8 percent work in an economic history department.

**Table 3**

**The Link between the Main Field of Interest and the Department of Affiliation (In Percent of the Total Number of Respondents Working in the Respective Field)**

		Main field of interest			
		History	Economics	Economic History*	Other**
Department of affiliation	History	65	0	22	15
	Economics	20	95	61	62
	Eco. His.	0	0	8	4
	Other	15	5	8	19
	Total	100	100	100	100

\* Economic History = Business, econ. and/or financial history

\*\*Other = other social sciences and exact sciences

Finally, we were also interested in the “employment situation” of the respondents (i.e. whether they had a permanent or temporary contract and whether they were actively seeking a new job): 72 percent indicated that they had a permanent contract. From these respondents, 62 percent were not actively seeking a new position in the next two years and approximately 10 percent were seeking a new position. The remaining 28 percent of respondents had a temporary contract, with 16 percent actively looking for a new position in another institution within the next two years. Again there were differences depending on respondents' departmental affiliation. (Table 4). About 76 percent of the respondents working at an economics department had a fixed position compared to 63

percent in history departments. Most of those with a fixed position in one department or the other were not seeking another job.

**Table 4**

**The Current Employment Situation of the Respondents, According to the Department of Affiliation (In Percent of the Total Number of Respondents Working in the Respective Department)**

		Department		
		History	Economics	Other
Current employment situation	Temporary-seeking	18	16	18
	Temporary-not seeking	20	8	12
	Permanent-seeking	16	10	6
	Permanent-not seeking	47	66	64
	Total	100	100	100

### Results and discussion

We now use a descriptive approach to investigate whether differences can be found in the publication culture of researchers in the field of economic history, based on departmental affiliation. Specifically, we look at differences in (1) the respondents' submission and publication behavior, (2) their own estimated probability of acceptance of a submitted

paper, (3) the respondents' reasons for publishing, (4) the preferred publication outlet, and (5) their journal selection strategies. To check the robustness of our results, we end by considering other factors such as age, nationality or gender that might influence publication culture (6).

### Respondents' submission and publication behavior

In our sample we observe a difference in the submission behavior of respondents according to their department (Table 5). Researchers working in an economics department submit more papers than researchers working in a history department. For instance, only 4 percent of the respondents in economics departments did not submit a paper in 2010 and 2011, compared to 13 percent in history departments.

Moreover, 64 percent of the people in economics departments sent in two to five papers, compared to only 50 percent of the authors in history departments. Finally, 6 percent of the researchers in economics departments submitted more than 10 papers, compared to no one in history departments. Looking at the actual number of publications and accepted papers in 2010 and 2011, the same pattern prevails. Respondents from economics departments published more papers than those from history departments.

**Table 5**  
**The Respondents' Submission and Publication Behavior in 2010 And 2011 According to Their Department (In Percent of the Total Number of Respondents Working in Each Department)**

		Department		
		History	Economics	Other
Number of submissions	Zero	13	4	9
	One	20	30	15
	two-to-five	50	64	66
	six-to-ten	18	18	3
	more-than-10	0	6	3
	Total	100	100	100
		Department		
		History	Economics	Other
Number of publications and accepted papers	Zero	23	9	16
	One	15	15	19
	two-to-five	48	58	56
	six-to-ten	15	14	9
	more-than-10	0	4	0
	Total	100	100	100

#### **Respondents' own estimated probability of acceptance of a paper**

In addition, we asked the respondents—based on their past experiences—to estimate the likelihood that their paper would be accepted for publication. The answers thus provided an average over the different journals that respondents would normally contact and the type of papers they would normally write. These reported probabilities vary with respondents' departmental affiliation (Table 6). The respondents in

history departments estimated higher likelihoods of acceptance: 65 percent estimated their probability of acceptance was more than 30 percent, compared to only 38 percent of the respondents in economics departments. Further, 35 percent and 12 percent of these respondents, in history and economics departments respectively, estimated that the expected probability was more than 70 percent, while 30 percent and 26 percent indicated that this probability was between 50 and 70 percent.

**Table 6**  
**Estimated Probability of a Paper Being Accepted by a Particular Journal (In Percent of Respondents in the Corresponding Department)**

		Department		
		History	Economics	Other
Estimated probability of a paper being accepted for publication by a particular journal*	Less than 10%	5	4	3
	10% to 30%	14	26	23
	30% to 50%	16	32	23
	50% to 70%	30	26	35
	More than 70%	35	12	16

\*This probability is estimated as an average over all individual submissions over all journal types.

Next we investigate actual acceptance rates. Journals' actual acceptance rates differ between disciplines. Data on journals' acceptance rates of submitted manuscripts are rarely made available to the public (Bo-Christer Björk and Anssi Öörni 2009; Bo-Christer Björk and David Solomon 2013). David Card et al. (2013) looked at acceptance rates in top journals in the field of economics and found that these rates have fallen from around 15 percent in 1980 to about 6 percent today. The main reason found for this decrease was "the combination of rising submissions and falling publications" (p. 145). Daniel Hamermesh (nd)

looked at acceptance rates of various top economic journals for the year 2008 and found acceptance rates ranging from 4 to 21 percent. Paul Haensly et al. (2008) and Cassidy Sugimoto et al. (2013) found a statistically significant negative correlation between the acceptance rates and the presence of a WoS impact factor.

Table 7 gives the type of information available on acceptance rates in the top 20 journals in the fields of the ‘History of Social Sciences’, ‘Economics’ and ‘History’. Overall, the acceptance rates in the field of ‘*Economics*’ seem to be lower than in the field of the ‘*History of Social Sciences*’ (to which economic history belongs). For the field of ‘*History*’ very little information is available on the acceptance rates of different journals. However, the data that are available show higher acceptance rates for history journals than for economics journals.<sup>9</sup> This difference is reflected in the responses reported in table 6. Researchers in history departments estimated higher likelihoods of getting their papers accepted than researchers affiliated to economics departments.

### **Duality in respondents’ reasons for publishing**

In this section, we look at the reasons why respondents want to publish their research findings and whether these reasons differ between respondents working in a history department compared to those working in an economics department.

Respondents were asked to select a maximum of three reasons why they would want to publish their work (Figure 1). Researchers in economic history do not seem to be driven by monetary rewards, but instead want to their research findings to the academic community and to

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<sup>9</sup> *Table 7 Source:* Data are from Cabell’s classification Index (CCI). Cabell’s gives publication information on more than 8,500 academic and scholarly journals across 11 disciplines, including ‘accounting’, ‘economics and finance’, ‘management’ and ‘marketing’. Some limited information is available for journals in the field of the ‘History sciences’ and the field of ‘History’, but not for all. Another journal in the top 50 in the field of “History” with data on the acceptance rate is number 34, the ‘History of Economic Ideas’, with an acceptance rate of 45 percent.

increase their standing among peers. The three most selected reasons were the same in all departments: the “distribution of research findings” and “to contribute to scientific progress in their discipline”, followed by “improving their standing among their peers.”



**Table 7**  
**Available Type of Information on the Acceptance Rates in**  
**Percentage of the Top 20 Journals in the Fields of the ‘History Of**  
**Social Sciences’, ‘Economics’ and ‘History’**

#	History of Social Sciences			Economics			History		
	Journal Title	2011 IF	AR (%)	Journal Title	2011 IF	AR (%)	Journal Title	2011 IF	AR (%)
1	The J of Econ Hist	1.015	20	J Econ Lit	9.243	5	Am Hist Rev	1.103	\
2	Explor in Econ Hist	0.935	20	Quar J of Eon	5.920	10	J Am History	1.100	\
3	J of Hist Geo	0.817	\	Rev Fin Studies	4.748	7	Memory Stud	1.070	\
4	J of the Hist of Behav Sci	0.793	\	J of Fin	4.218	4	J of Global Hist	0.929	\
5	Econ Hist Rev	0.781	30	J of Econ Perspectives	4.211	<1	Comp Stud in Society and Hist	0.754	\
6	European Rev Econ Hist	0.774	\	Econ Geogra phy	3.975	18	J of Modern Hist	0.559	\
7	Hist of the Human Sciences	0.621	\	Am Econ Journal	3.800		J of Family Hist	0.5	\
8	Libraries & the Cultural Record	0.571	\	J of Fin Econometrics	3.725	20	Hist Workshp J	0.488	\
9	J of Family History	0.5	\	Brooki ngs Papers on Eco Activity	3.409	<1	Social Science Hist	0.485	\

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10	Social Sci Hist	0.485	\	J of Acct and Econ	3.281	20	Clio-metrica	0.480	33
11	Clio-metrica	0.48	33	J of Econ Geo-graphy	3.261	26	J of British Stud	0.464	\
12	Hist of Edu	0.462	\	Tech and Econ Dev of Econ	3.235	\	English Hist-orical Rev	0.458	\
13	Bus Hist Rev	0.444	20	Econo-metrica	2.976	10	Environ-mental Hist	0.444	\
14	J of the Hist of Econ Thought	0.420	\	J of Pol Econ	2.902	9	Int'l Rev Social Hist	0.432	\
15	The Hist of the Family	0.410	\	Rev Econ Stud	2.810	5	German Hist	0.421	\
16	Paedago-gica Historica	0.391	\	Am Econ J-Appld Econ	2.757	\	J of the Hist of Econ Thought	0.420	\
17	J of Philo of Edu	0.371	\	Econ and Human Bio	2.722	30	J of African Hist	0.382	\
18	Bus History	0.345	20	Eco-logical Econ	2.713	35	Labour Hist	0.364	50
19	Austral Econ Hist Rev	0.323	20	Am Econ Rev	2.693	10	Praehisto-rische Zeit-schrift	0.350	\
20	Enterprise & Society	0.312	\	Rev of Econ and Stat	2.664	8	Trabajos de Pre-historia.	0.348	\

AR = Acceptance Rate

Still, differences could be found according to departmental affiliation. Almost 80 percent of the respondents belonging to a history department selected “distribution of research findings”, compared to only 50 percent of those belonging to economic and other departments. Furthermore, the reasons “to increase your chances to be promoted” (30 percent versus 9 percent; with 5 percent statistical significance) and “to improve your standing in your current institution” (20 percent versus 9 percent; with 10 percent statistical significance) were more important for the respondents working in an economics department than for those in a history department.



**Figure 1**

### **Reasons for Publishing, According to Department**

*Notes:* Reported in percent of respondents compared to the total number of respondents in each of the different departments. Respondents could indicate up to three reasons. Arrows indicate levels that are statistically different at the 5 percent level based on a t-test.

Similar results were found by Leyman et al. (2011) who performed a survey among all senior researchers in Flanders (Belgium). For instance, with regard to the factors influencing the publication pattern, they found that researchers from the social sciences (including economics) found the “expectations of the current institution” (i.e. “their standing in their

current institution”) very important (50.2 percent, compared to only 42.3 percent of respondents from the humanities, including history). In contrast, respondents from the social sciences found the “international peers” (i.e. “to improve your standing among your peers”) less important (64.5 percent in the social sciences compared to 67.2 percent in the humanities).

Even though respondents from different departments did not put exactly the same weight to particular reasons for publishing, the overall ranking of these reasons is nonetheless quite similar. The top three and bottom three reasons are identical, whereas differences occur in the intermediate rankings.

### **Duality in the preferred publication outlet**

We now present a ranking of possible research outlets from the point of view of the researcher and from the point of view of the department. Next we discuss the differences between the two disciplinary backgrounds.

#### *Rankings of publication outlets*

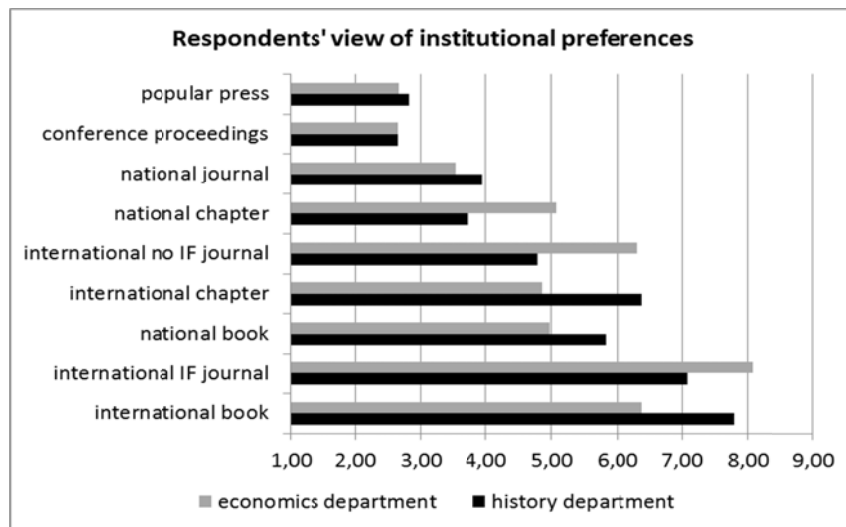
We asked all respondents to rank nine possible research outlets (such as an article in an international journal with an ISI impact factor<sup>10</sup>, a

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<sup>10</sup> The ISI impact factor is used to measure the impact of a journal. However, we are aware that, despite its popularity, the ISI impact factor has been frequently and extensively criticized. Several criticisms include: the fact that not all academic journals are indexed by the WoS; the definition of a ‘citable’ publication is unclear; not all fields, regions and languages are treated in the same way; impact factors can be manipulated by journal editors; impact factors do not take discipline-specific citation patterns into account; and the fact that the dataset itself is not error-free (Ronald Rousseau, 2002; Henk Moed, 2005; Wolfgang Stock, 2009; Ludo Waltman et al., 2011). However, as the ISI impact factor is overall the best known indicator among researchers to measure the impact of a journal, we have chosen to use this impact factor.

chapter in a national book, etc.) from most important (highest number) to least important (lowest number), according to both their personal view and what they consider to be their department's preferred research outlets. In addition, we investigated whether the view of respondents who work in economics departments differed from that of their colleagues in history departments. The personal view of the respondents and their opinion of departmental preferences, was more or less the same in economic as well as in history departments. Hence, researchers' personal views seem to be largely determined by what they need in their own department to get tenure or promotion. The bars in Figure 2 represent the importance each individual gave to a certain research

outlet. The bars represent a weighted average:  $\sum_{k=1}^9 W_k(10-k)$ , with  $W_k$  the percentage of respondents that choose rank  $k$ . The longer the bar, the higher the research outlet in question is ranked. The longest bar is considered to be the most preferred research outlet.



**Figure 2**

### **Duality in the Preferred Publication Outlet by Department**

We find some interesting results, when comparing the results with respect to the most important research outlet between the different types of departments. In a history department “authoring an international book” is considered to be the most important research outlet, closely followed by “a paper in an international impact factor (IF) journal.” Third ranked is “authoring a national book,” followed by a “chapter in an international book.” Fifth ranked was “a paper in an international no impact factor journal.” However, in the economics department, “a paper in an international impact factor journal” is clearly considered as the most preferred research outlet. “Authoring an international book” ranked second, “a paper in an international no impact factor journal” third, “authoring a national book” fourth, and a “chapter in an international book” fifth. “Conference proceedings” and “popular press and media” are in both departments considered the least interesting types of research outlet. Our results thus seem to confirm generally held beliefs regarding differences in preferred research outlets. Yet, the overall ranking within history departments is highly positively correlated with the ranking within economics departments (Spearman rank correlation is 0.9167 with a statistical significance of 0.0005).

*Discussion of disciplinary differences*

This duality in importance given to certain products of research outlet clearly demonstrates the difference in appreciation for books and papers between departments and fields. In history departments books are highly regarded, while in economics departments papers, preferably in international impact factor journals, are considered the gold standard. For instance, one respondent working on political economy within an economics department, stated it very clearly:

Unfortunately, in [my country] things go down a blind-alley: impact factor or die. This is incredibly sad, stupid and narrow minded. But this is the game and if you don't play it you are out. Perhaps we need more historically oriented economics journals—there are too few.

This difference in preferences largely reflects the different types of PhD dissertations that are written in both fields. On the one hand, the format of a history PhD dissertation is most often an entire book on a very specific topic and typically, the dissertation is published afterwards as a book. On the other hand, a PhD dissertation in economics consists mostly of several papers that doctoral students try to publish in highly-ranked journals in the field.

This difference in publication preferences between history and economics departments is confirmed by other researchers, for smaller samples (e.g. researchers from only one country). For instance, Tim Engels et al. (2012) found that the distribution between publications recorded in the WoS and other publications with academic standing (but not in WoS) differs greatly between fields: for example, in history only 15 percent of publications was registered in the WoS, and in economics 55 percent was recorded in the WoS. Hence, this can partly explain why impact factor journals are less important in the field of history than in the field of economics. Leyman et al. (2011) found in their survey among all senior researchers in Flanders (Belgium) that 81.6 percent of the respondents from social sciences (e.g. economics) said that the number of publications an author has in WoS journals is internationally considered as an important measure to rank the quality of research in their field, compared to only 20.8 percent of the respondents in the field of humanities (e.g. history). In addition, this study found that both in social sciences (91.9 percent) and in the humanities (80 percent) respondents found the international character of the journal important, which is also visible in our data ('international' outlets are more often chosen than 'national' outlets, Figure 2). However, the impact factor of a journal strongly influenced the selection strategy for 82 percent of respondents in social sciences, compared to only 42.7 percent in humanities. This dominance of the ISI impact factor in some fields can to a large extent be explained by its role in funding, recruitment and promotion decisions (Peter Weingart 2005). Moreover, other studies such as those by Hicks, (1999), Larivière et al. (2006) and Larivière et al. (2010) confirm that in certain disciplines such as the humanities

(including history) journal articles are not the most important publication outlet for knowledge diffusion and that in the humanities books are more frequently cited than articles published in journals.

To conclude, this dataset shows that researchers with a PhD in one type of discipline, and working in a department of the other discipline, will most likely have to change their research and publication behavior significantly in order to obtain tenure. In this respect, working successfully in an interdisciplinary field clearly requires time and effort to adapt to the new publication culture.

**Duality in respondents' journal selection strategies.**

We also investigated how the respondents select journals to submit a paper to, and how this selection process can differ depending on their departmental affiliation.

*Factors determining submission decisions*

We asked respondents which three journal characteristics they considered to be the most important when selecting a journal for submission (Figure 3). It is somewhat surprising to see that all respondents found the “general standing of the journal” to be more important than its “ISI impact factor”. However, this result is in line with the result obtained in Sandra Rousseau and Ronald Rousseau (2012) for the field of the information sciences. The fact that over half of the respondents were in a permanent position and were not actively searching for a new position in the short term may play a role too.



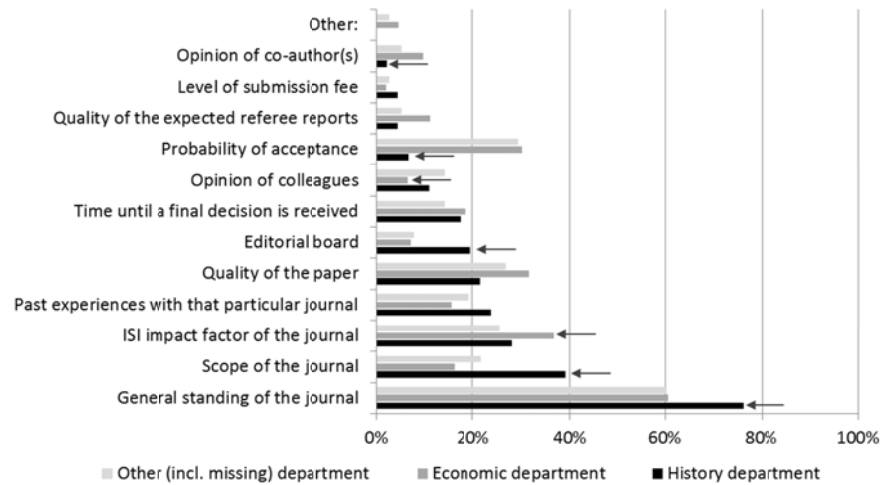


Figure 3

### Journal Selection Strategies, According to Department

*Notes:* Reported in percent of respondents compared to the total number of respondents in each of the different departments. Respondents could indicate up to three reasons. Arrows indicate levels that are statistically different at the 5 percent level based on a t-test.

The “quality of the expected referee reports,” the “level of the submission fee,” as well as the “opinion of co-authors” and “colleagues” were amongst the least important factors when selecting a journal, and this applied to both respondents from economics departments and from history departments. The latter factor is rather straightforward, because if the respondent’s co-author(s) found fault with a paper, they would very likely first try to improve it before submission. With regard to the quality of the referee reports and the level of the submission fee, some reasons for their low importance can be found in comments made by respondents:

I would favor any journal that did not employ referee anonymity and where the editor took responsibility for insisting that referees submit proper professional reports. Compared to 20 years ago current standards of refereeing are a professional disgrace.

(The respondent works at an economics department and is active in the economics discipline)

Nobody pays \$50 to publish their own work. Do they? I mean, really. That's nuts. Journals publish works for free. You should NEVER pay to publish. I can't imagine paying for someone to publish my stuff.

(This respondent works at a business school department and is active in the business history discipline)

Looking at the ranking of the reasons for selecting a journal only the top reason is identically ranked over all departments: the general standing of the journal seems to be an overarching selection criterion. However, the ranking of the other reasons can be quite varied: see, for instance, the probability of acceptance which is ranked ninth, fourth or second depending on the department to which a respondent belongs.

In this respect, we find the following differences in relation to other journal characteristics. After the general standing of the journal, the researchers working in a history department selected the following characteristics: scope of the journal, ISI impact factor, past experiences with a particular journal and quality of the paper as most important. The ISI impact factor came second for those working at an economics department, followed by the quality of the paper, the probability of acceptance, and the time until a final decision is received. Based on t-tests (arrows in Figure 3), general standing (76 percent versus 60 percent), scope (40 percent versus 18 percent), editorial board (20 percent versus 7 percent) and opinion of colleagues (11 percent versus 6 percent) are statistically more important for researchers in history departments, whereas the ISI impact factor (28 percent versus 37 percent), the probability of acceptance (7 percent versus 30 percent), and the opinion of co-authors (2 percent versus 10 percent) are statistically more important for researchers in economics departments.

#### *Discussion of observed differences*

Some of the results on the factors that determine submission decisions are confirmed by the academic literature. For instance, apart from the difference in ‘value’ attached to the ISI impact factor (i.e. being more important in social sciences than in the humanities), Leyman et al. (2011) found that in Flanders (Belgium), “achieving the desired readers” (i.e. the right scope of the journal) was more important for researchers in the humanities (69.2 percent said this factor was very important in their decision process) than for readers in the social sciences (57.3 percent). Leyman et al. (2011) found a similar conclusion for the “quality/prestige of the editorial board” (49 percent of the respondents in the humanities found this factor very important, compared to only 38.9 percent for those working in social sciences). The importance of “scope” is also illustrated by the following comment by a respondent who works at an economics department and is active in the economic history discipline:

I aim at journals in the scope of economic, business or financial history, as for economic journals my research is considered too old and too descriptive, and for purely history journals it is often too econom[etr]ic.

In addition, based on a stated choice experiment, Poelmans and Rousseau (2015) found that three factors clearly dominated the submission preferences in the field of economic history: the ISI impact factor of the journal, the journals’ standing and its scope. Specifically, researchers prefer journals with the following characteristics in making submission choices, keeping all other factors constant: journals with highly regarded editors over journals with unknown editors; journals with an ISI impact factor over those with no impact factor; journals with higher ISI impact factors over those with lower impact factors; journals with a high or average standing among peers over those with no standing; specialized journals with a scope in economic history over journals with a specific economic or historical scope; and journals with a faster decision-making process.

Looking at the “probability of acceptance,” Poelmans and Rousseau (2015) found very little information regarding this aspect of the

submission process. Still, in the current study, we find some evidence of a higher probability of acceptance for history research than for economic research. Maybe the low probability of acceptance for economic research is the reason why these researchers find this characteristic so important.

With regard to the publication delay (i.e. the “time until a final decision is received”), a lot of research based on several disciplines has already been carried out.<sup>11</sup> Björk and Solomon (2013) studied average publication delays in 2,700 articles published in 135 journals, sampled from the Scopus citation index. Amongst other fields, they looked at the fields of arts/humanities and economic sciences. They found a waiting time between submission and acceptance of 10.75 months for economic sciences, compared to 6.25 months for arts/humanities. With regard to journals in economic history, we find that out of the top-20 journals in the field of History of Social Sciences, only five journals give additional information on the date that the journal received the manuscript for revision, the date(s) that it received the revised submissions and/or the date that the final article was accepted for publication. Only two of these journals—*The Economic History Review* and *Cliometrica*—provide sufficient information to calculate the submission delay. We investigated all articles that have been published in the *Economic History Review* in 2010 and 2011. According to the information found for all 80 articles

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<sup>11</sup> For instance, Marc Luwel and Henk Moed (1998) found average publication delays in the science field of 3 to 17 months in 1992 with the longest in the field of mathematics and technical sciences. Rob Kling and Amanda Swygart-Hobaugh (2002) found decreasing publication delays over time (between 1970/1980 and 2000) in chemistry and physics journals, falling from 6.5 to 5.8 months; but increasing publication delays in management, economics and psychological journals, rising from 9.0 to 23.8 months on average. Glenn Ellison (2002) researched a selection of 25 journals in economics and related fields and found an average submission time of 16.5 months in 1999. Carlos Amat (2008) found publication delays ranging from 6.2 to 17.2 months in the field of food science.

concerned, the time span between submission of the paper and first revision was on average 15.63 months. The time span between submission and acceptance in this journal was on average 18.94 months (or 1.5 years) and the time between submission and paper publication amounted to 35.44 months (or almost 3 years) on average.

### **Other factors influencing respondents' choices**

In order to test the effect of other factors besides department on publication culture, we estimate eight different models, the results of which are reported in Table 8, reflecting several aspects of the five expressions of duality that we studied before. First, to investigate respondents' submission and publication behavior, we look at the number of studies published by respondents in 2010 and 2011. Secondly, we consider respondents' estimated probability of acceptance of a submitted paper. Thirdly, we look at respondents' reasons for publishing and specifically we study the probability that respondents selected reasons related to career as opposed to those related to standing. Fourthly, we investigate the preferred research outlets by estimating the probability that the most preferred outlet of a respondent was an international book (as author) versus an article in an international journal with ISI impact factor. Fifthly, we have a look at respondents' journal selection strategies and estimate the probability that respondents choose a journal based on its ISI impact factor or based on its standing. The exact definitions for both dependent and independent variables are provided in the appendix.

Moreover, we used two regression strategies (William Greene 2000) to estimate the models in STATA: (1) when the dependent variable was continuous (*publipoint*; *probpoint*), we used a simple OLS regression; and (2) when the dependent variable was a dummy (0/1) variable (*career*; *publ-standing*; *book*; *article*; *impact factor*; *journal-standing*), we used a logistic regression. Besides department and PhD, the additional factors we consider are gender (*female*), age (*older55*), type of contract (*temp*), location (*europa*, *northam*), and the number of past publications (*onepub*). We tested several models, but report only the models that performed best measured by the loglikelihood or adjusted R<sup>2</sup>

measures.<sup>12</sup> In the interest of space, we only comment on results that are statistically significant at the 5 percent level.

Firstly, looking at the estimation results for the number of publications, we find that respondents with a PhD in economics reported a higher number of publications in 2010 and 2011. On the other hand, female respondents and respondents with a temporary contract reported significantly fewer publications. The observation that female researchers tend to publish fewer publications than their male colleagues has been shown in numerous studies (e.g., Jonathan Cole and Harriet Zuckerman 1984; Pleun van Arensbergen et al. 2012). Moreover, these gender differences in scientific productivity seem to be universal across fields and nations (Dag Aksnes et al. 2011), but maybe not over time (van Arensbergen et al. 2012).

Secondly, we find that respondents with a PhD in economics and those with a temporary contract provided a significantly lower estimate of the probability that a paper would be accepted by a journal. On the other hand, respondents with a PhD in history, and those affiliated with an institution in Europe or in North America, were more likely to report a higher probability of acceptance.

Thirdly, we look at the reported reasons for publishing and we distinguish career-related and standing-related factors. Note that respondents could select up to three reasons (see figure 1). Career-related factors were more likely to be reported as reasons for publishing by respondents with a PhD in economics and by respondents with a temporary contract, while they were reported less often by older respondents. Looking at standing-related factors, these were selected less frequently by respondents with a temporary contract.

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<sup>12</sup> Our results are robust over the different model specifications.

**Table 8 [\*(\*\*) = statistically significant at 5 percent (1 percent) level]**

	Sub- mission and publi- cation behavior	Reported prob- ability of accep- tance	Reasons for publishing		Preferred publication outlet		Journal selection strategies	
	Publi- cations	Proba- bility	Career	Publi- standing	Book	Article	Impact factor	Journal- standing
	Coeff. (stand error)	Coeff. (stand error)	Coeff. (stand error)	Coeff. (standard error)	Coeff. (standard error)	Coeff. (standar d error)	Coeff. (standard error)	Coeff. (standard error)
phdecon	0.917** (0.341)	-0.122** (0.032)	0.858** (0.316)		-1.019** (0.348)	1.039** (0.292)	0.804** (0.304)	
phdhist		0.080* (0.038)	0.375 (0.381)		0.912** (0.354)	-0.420 (0.357)	-0.334 (0.386)	
deptecon				0.311 (0.299)				-0.057 (0.315)
depthist				0.489 (0.403)				0.887 (0.480)
female	-0.922* (0.371)	-0.034 (0.032)	0.093 (0.311)	0.330 (0.286)	-0.367 (0.329)	0.107 (0.291)	0.469 (0.306)	-0.333 (0.305)
Temp	-1.078** (0.377)	-0.087** (0.033)	1.360** (0.331)	-1.047** (0.297)	-0.082 (0.334)	0.204 (0.298)	0.251 (0.311)	-0.618* (0.313)
older55	-0.101 (0.463)	0.073 (0.040)	-2.611** (0.567)	-0.301 (0.344)	0.660 (0.377)	-0.828* (0.368)	-0.578 (0.418)	-0.320 (0.366)
europe	0.553 (0.356)	0.109** (0.040)	0.679 (0.397)	-0.391 (0.363)	-0.472 (0.400)	0.267 (0.369)	0.254 (0.375)	0.623 (0.367)
northam		0.120* (0.049)	0.919 (0.481)	-0.353 (0.437)	-0.464 (0.496)	-0.285 (0.445)	-1.444** (0.538)	0.781 (0.457)
onepub		-0.044 (0.032)	0.252 (0.314)	0.021 (0.288)	0.726* (0.314)	0.065 (0.290)	-0.246 (0.314)	1.073** (0.345)
constant	3.449** (0.374)	0.450** (0.043)	-1.356** (0.435)	0.415 (0.388)	-0.587 (0.423)	-0.473 (0.393)	-0.932* (0.408)	0.161 (0.397)
Method	OLS	OLS	Logit	Logit	Logit	Logit	Logit	Logit
Adj R2	0.0735	0.1437						
loglik			-155.7	-179.1	-144.6	-174.4	-159.0	-159.9
obs	247	242	272	272	272	272	272	272

Fourthly, we look at the determinants of the research outlet that was preferred most by respondents (see also figure 2). In our sample, 29.9 percent of respondents selected an international book (as author) as their most preferred outlet, while 58.2 percent selected an article in an international journal with impact factor. Respondents with a PhD in history or with at most one publication in 2010 and 2011 were more likely to rank an international book (as author) as their most preferred research outlet, while respondents with a PhD in economics were less likely to do so. Furthermore, an article in an international journal with impact factor was selected significantly more by respondents with a PhD in economics and significantly less by respondents over 55 years old.

Finally, we study the link between researchers' characteristics and the probability that standing or ISI impact factor were selected as having an important influence on the submission decision. Again, respondents could select up to three reasons (see figure 3). On the one hand, we find that respondents with a PhD in economics were more likely to take the impact factor into account when submitting a paper, while respondents with a North American affiliation were less likely to do so. On the other hand, respondents with at most one publication in the past two years were more likely to take a journal's standing into account when submitting a paper, while respondents with a temporary contract were less likely to do so.

Overall, these results show the importance of the doctoral degree in determining the publication culture of researchers in economic history. The variables representing the doctoral degree (*phdecon*, *phdhist*) statistically outperformed—based on loglikelihood and adjusted  $R^2$  measures—the variables representing the department (*deptecon*, *dephist*) in estimating different aspects of publication culture for six out of eight models in table 8. Only standing-related aspects seem to be related more to the department with which respondents were affiliated than with their doctoral degree. Looking at the other factors, the type of contract seemed to be an important determinant of publication decisions made by respondents as well. The factors related to gender, age, location and past publications seem to be determining some of the aspects of the publication culture, but not in a systematic way.



### Conclusion

In this study we investigated whether working in an interdisciplinary field such as ‘economic, business and financial history’ implies an additional challenge to the researcher in this field compared to those working in a more homogeneous field. Differences in practices between history and economics departments as well as differences in research skills acquired during doctoral studies can lead to a wide range of research approaches and practices. In order to substantiate this claim we conducted a survey to quantify the heterogeneity in the publication culture between respondents working in an economics department and those working in a history department.

Based on the information collected by a representative sample of the field of economic, business and financial history, we observed several differences. First, the type of PhD held by a respondent is clearly correlated with departmental affiliation. Secondly, we found strong differences in the publication culture of the researchers. Specifically, researchers working in an economics department submit and publish more papers than researchers in a history department. In addition, the estimated probability that their paper—based on their past experiences—would be accepted for publication by a particular journal was higher for respondents from history departments than from those in economics departments. Thirdly, in a history department authoring an “international book” was considered the most important research outlet, while in an economics department, an article in an international impact factor journal was the most preferred research outlet. Fourthly, looking at the manuscript submission criteria, the scope, the general standing of the journal, the editorial board and the opinion of colleagues seem to be more important for researchers in history departments, whereas the ISI impact factor of the journal, the probability of acceptance, and the opinion of co-authors appear to be relatively more important for researchers in economics departments.

However, the reasons why respondents wanted to publish their research were much closely aligned. The three most selected reasons were the same in all departments: the distribution of research findings

and a desire to contribute to scientific progress in their discipline, followed by a desire to improve standing among peers. In addition, we investigated the selection process of the respondents when submitting a manuscript to a journal and found that all respondents considered the general standing of the journal to be more important than a journal's ISI impact factor.

Besides the department other factors, such as age, gender and the type of PhD, may influence researchers' publication culture. In order to test this effect, we estimated eight different models reflecting several aspects of the five expressions of duality that we studied in this manuscript. The results of these models show that the factors related to gender, age, location and past publications are related to some aspects of researchers' publication culture, but not in a systematic way. In addition, the type of contract consistently surfaced as an important determinant of publication decisions. Moreover, the variables representing the doctoral degree (*phdecon*, *phdhist*) statistically outperformed the variables representing the department (*deptecon*, *dephhist*) in estimating different aspects of publication culture for six out of our eight estimated models.

Overall, our survey generated dataset provides evidence that researchers with a PhD in one discipline who work in a department of another discipline may have to change their research and publication behavior significantly in order to obtain tenure or get promoted. In this respect, working in an interdisciplinary field such as economic history clearly comes at a cost. Hence, when young scholars go to the job market it is important for them to take this difference in publication culture into account when choosing an economics or history department. Moreover, it is important to develop and use multidisciplinary assessment strategies to evaluate the quality of researchers in a multidisciplinary field. For instance, it may be advisable to include researchers from both disciplinary backgrounds in selection committees.

Luckily, the scientific community is becoming aware of this need to improve the ways in which the output of scientific research—and linked to that the chances of promotion—are evaluated. For instance, the *San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment* (2012) clearly states that the properties of the Journal Impact Factor, which is frequently used as

the primary parameter in evaluations, are field-specific and that the scientific content of what has been written is much more important than publication metrics. Hence they advise against using the impact factors or other journal-based metrics as a surrogate measure of the quality in hiring or promotion decisions, but to use, instead, the scientific content of the publication. The study by Ismael Rafols et al. (2012) clearly shows that the use of journal rankings can suppress interdisciplinary research in the sense that such research is put at a disadvantage in research evaluations. Furthermore, according to *The Leiden Manifesto for research metrics* (2015) the assessment of individual researchers has to be based on a qualitative judgement of their entire portfolio.

Finally, we would like to end our analysis with a critical note formulated by one of the respondents from a history department who warns of the danger of putting too much focus on the number of publications and the number of citations expressed as journal impact factors and Hirsh indices:

Sadly, the 'publish or perish' pressures for young scholars remains high; the lack of pressure to publish cutting edge/innovative ideas based on research by tenured professors remains low/non-existent. In other words, vocational and monetary factors are a major motivation for both publishing and what is published—the notions of being innovative, exploratory and 'relevant' in research and publishing seems to have fallen by the wayside. This will not change institutionally; it will get worse. Nonetheless, there will always remain in every discipline a small minority dedicated to moving the needle—or creating a new needle and direction—in spite of these pressures. It is hoped that this group will not go the way of other extinct species, but they can only be protected if a proactive program is created and executed to show the importance and relevance of research and publishing for society-at-large, translating what is learned or posited for public consumption, and changing the “ranking” of research activities so that 'publishing for the popular press' is no longer ranked 9 but 1.

We note that the results of our investigations only apply to researchers active in the field of economic, business and/or financial history, or with a least some interest in this field (as shown by the fact that they published in the main journals of the field and/or attended some of the big conferences in the field). Thus, it would be interesting for future research to investigate whether our findings could be generalized to other (interdisciplinary) fields.

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## APPENDIX – VARIABLE DEFINITION

Variable Name	Description	Definition
publpoint	A respondent's reported number of published and accepted studies in 2010 and in 2011	Categorical data were transformed into five mid-point estimates: 0 – 1 – 4 – 8 – 12 publications respectively
probpoint	A respondent's estimated probability of a paper being accepted for publication by a particular journal	Categorical data were transformed into five mid-point estimates: 0.05 – 0.2 – 0.4 – 0.6 – 0.85 probability respectively
Career	A respondent's likelihood of being influenced by career-related objectives for publishing research	Dummy variable: = 1, if the respondent selected 'to increase your probability of finding a new position', 'to increase your chances to be promoted', or 'to make your

		current position permanent'; = 0, else
Publi-standing	A respondent's likelihood of being influenced by standing-related objectives for publishing research	Dummy variable: = 1, if the respondent selected 'to improve your standing in your current institution', or 'to increase your standing among your peers'; = 0, else
Book	A respondent's likelihood of selecting an international book (as author) as his most preferred research outlet	Dummy variable: = 1, if the respondent selected 'an international book (as author)' as his/her most preferred research outlet; = 0, else
Article	A respondent's likelihood of selecting an international journal with impact factor as his most preferred research outlet	Dummy variable: = 1, if the respondent selected 'an international journal with ISI impact factor' as his/her most preferred research outlet; = 0, else
Impact factor	A respondent's likelihood of being influenced by a journal's ISI impact factor when selecting a journal for submitting a manuscript	Dummy variable: = 1, if the respondent selected 'journal ISI impact factor' as an important reason for selecting a journal; = 0, else
Journal-standing	A respondent's likelihood of being influenced by a journal's standing when selecting a journal for submitting a manuscript	Dummy variable: = 1, if the respondent selected 'journal standing' as an important reason for selecting a journal; = 0, else
Phdecon	PhD respondent	Dummy variable : = 1, if respondent obtained a PhD in economics; = 0, else
Phdhist	PhD respondent	Dummy variable : = 1, if respondent obtained a PhD in history; = 0, else

## Publication Cultures

Deptecon	Department respondent	Dummy variable : = 1, if respondent is affiliated with an economics department; = 0, else
Depthist	Department respondent	Dummy variable : = 1, if respondent is affiliated with a history department; = 0, else
Female	Gender	Dummy variable : = 1, if respondent is female; = 0, else
Temp	Type of contract	Dummy variable : = 1, if respondent has a temporary contract; = 0, else
Older55	Age	Dummy variable : = 1, if respondent is more than 55 years old; = 0, else
Europe	Location	Dummy variable : = 1, if respondent is affiliated with an institution in Europe; = 0, else
Northam	Location	Dummy variable : = 1, if respondent is affiliated with an institution in North America; = 0, else
Onepub	Number of publications	Dummy variable : = 1, if respondent published at most one study in 2010 and 2011; = 0, else

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